

How Can My Child Get Financial Aid?



*Utah Career
Resource Network*



► THE PARENT SERIES

Help Your Child Locate Financial Aid for Education Training and College

You can help your child determine how to finance his or her college education.

- Sit down with your child to discuss all the financial aid opportunities and resources available.
- Talk with your child's school guidance counselor to get more information about merit-based scholarships, grants, and private scholarships.
- Check with the colleges that your child is applying to for more information about the financial assistance they offer, and the required applications and forms that your child must turn in to be considered for financial aid.
- After researching, help your child make a list of all financial aid resources that he or she wishes to consider and apply for. The list should include; your families contribution, federal and state loans, and federal/state grants and scholarships.

It is important to understand all the financial aid options available during your child's college decision-making process.



www.utahccte.org

UCRN Utah Career Resource Network
1-800-733-7887
www.utahcareers.info

Get Your Hands On Quality Career Information

What is Financial Aid?



HOW IS STUDENT AID DETERMINED?

Student aid is based on either financial need or merit-based need. Most student aid, federal or not, is awarded to students based on their families' financial need.

Merit-based aid is awarded to students who meet requirements not related to financial needs, such as academic excellence in high school or displaying artistic or athletic talent.

More than 15 million students are enrolled in postsecondary study in the United States. Over half of these students receive some form of financial aid.

It is important for you to help your child understand all the financial aid options available during his or her college decision-making process. In addition to college application deadlines, individual colleges and Federal and state programs have application deadlines for financial assistance that must be met in order to be considered for all available financial aid.

Financial Aid is available in four forms:

- Grants
- Scholarships
- Loans
- Work-study

Three major sources provide the bulk of student financial aid:

- Federal government
- State governments
- Colleges and universities

Private sources of aid, in the form of scholarships, grants, and loans, are also available from companies, community groups, non-governmental organizations, schools, banks, and other lending institutions.

Work-Study provides part-time jobs to undergraduates and graduate/professional students, either on or off their college campus. Your child can use the earnings to finance his or her educational programs. Options for work-study can be found on federal and college financial aid applications and Web sites.

Scholarships provide financial assistance to students that do not have to be repaid, similar to grants. While scholarships are usually awarded according to merit-based talents, financial need is sometimes a large part of the award decision-making process.

WHAT FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE TO MY CHILD?

Grants provide financial assistance that do not have to be repaid. Examples of federal and state grants include:

- The **Pell Grant Program** provides grants to low-income undergraduates.
- The **Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)** Program provides grants to low-income students, and generally helps supplement the aid they receive from Pell Grants and other sources.
- The **Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program** provides states with grant money to provide to college students.

Loans financed by the federal government are guaranteed and designed to give your child flexible repayment options. Examples of federal loans include:

- The **Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL)** Program makes loans available to students and their families through about 7,100 participating private lenders.
- A **Federal Stafford Loan** is a guaranteed federally insured student loan. Stafford loans come in the form of subsidized and unsubsidized loans.
- A **Perkins Loan Program** provides low-interest loans to undergraduate and graduate professional students who demonstrate financial needs.

TRIO Programs provide services to low-income students, including assistance in choosing a college, tutoring, personal and financial counseling, career counseling, and workplace visits.

The Hope Scholarship Tax Credit allows students, or their parents, to claim up to \$1,500 for each student for out-of-pocket tuition and fees. The credit is available for each of the first two years of classes towards a degree or certificate from a college or vocational school.

The Lifetime Learning Tax Credit allows college students or their families to claim up to 20 percent of qualified out-of-pocket expenses associated with earning a degree.

The Utah Education Savings Plan is the official college savings plan of Utah and is designed to encourage adults to save for the qualified higher education expenses of their loved ones. **College Based Financial Aid** Nearly 19 percent of available aid comes from colleges. Contact the financial aid office of the college that your child wishes to attend for more information.